



County Administrative Office
Governmental & Legislative Affairs

Josh Candelaria
Director

June 23, 2015

The Honorable Marc Steinorth
California State Assembly
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 363 – As Amended May 19, 2015 (SPONSOR)

Dear Assemblyman Steinorth:

The County of San Bernardino is proud to sponsor AB 363, legislation that would allow county elections officials to authorize secure ballot retrieval from polling places prior to the closing of polls and provide an optional modified ballot reconciliation procedure.

Existing law prohibits removal of a ballot container from a polling place until all ballots are counted and further prohibits the ballot container from being opened until after the polls are closed. The County of San Bernardino spans over 20,000 square miles, presenting logistical challenges on election night. Traditionally, after the polls close on Election Day, ballots are returned to the Registrar of Voters office in San Bernardino for processing and counting. Ballots are two cards, front and back, and require hand processing to tear off stubs, and bundle into batches before scanning through vote counting machines. Due to the size of the County, several polling locations are located in remote areas and require several hours to transport the ballots to a central processing location. AB 363 will expedite ballot processing, reduce administrative costs, increase overall efficiency and provide voters with timely election results.

In addition, this legislation would allow election officials to use an optional modified ballot reconciliation process. The modified procedures are preferred because they will: 1) be more accurate, 2) allow election officials to pick up ballots in the middle of the day without having to open ballot boxes and inventorying voted ballots in front of voters, and 3) expedite election results, even in counties that do not pick up ballots mid-day because it will speed up their polling place closing procedures.

Further, the bill directs the Secretary of State to adopt regulations addressing the secure transfer and delivery of ballots, to ensure maximum ballot security on Election Day.

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For these reason, the San Bernardino Board of Supervisors is pleased to sponsor AB 363. We thank you for championing this effort. If you have any questions, please contact Josh Candelaria, Director of Governmental and Legislative Affairs at (909) 387-4821 or at jcandelaria@sbcountry.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James Ramos', with a stylized flourish at the end.

JAMES RAMOS
Board of Supervisors Chairman
Third District Supervisor
County of San Bernardino

c: Honorable Ben Allen, Chair, Senate Elections and Constitutional
Amendments Committee
Honorable Members and Consultants, Senate Elections and Constitutional
Amendments Committee
County of San Bernardino Legislative Delegation